Regional Science Centres in Karnataka

2968. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that two proposals for the establishment of Regional Science Centres at Dharwad and Pilikula (Mangalore) in Karnataka are pending with the Central Government for the release of their fifty percent of equity share; and

(b) if so, by when the Central Government's share of equity is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Setting up of Regional Science Centre is a part of the ongoing programme of Ministry of Culture under the Science Cities scheme. Ministry of Culture has received proposals for establishment of Regional Science Centres at Dharwad and Pilikula (Mangalore) from Government of Karnataka. It has been proposed to establish Regional Science Centre at Pilikula (Mangalore) in the Annual Action Plan 2008-09 of the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM). The establishment of Regional Science Centre at Dharwad has been approved by the Ministry of Culture and subsequently first instalment of Rs. 150 crore has been released by the Ministry from the Central Government 's share of Rs. 3.25 crore for the project.

Proposal to Amend Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act

2969. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to review the rules framed under Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the rules will be amended;

(c) whether it is a fact that schools are being run in some ancient temples and monuments for decades;

(d) if so, what are the details of such temples and monuments, State-wise; and

(e) whether Government proposes to allow these schools to be run from there by amending the existing rules?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Archaeological Survey of India has initiated the process of reviewing the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Rules, 1959 framed under AM&ASR Act, 1958 to enable better management of protected monuments and sites and bring the rules in tune with contemporary ground realities. No time frame for completing the process of amendment can be indicated the this stage.

(c) and (d) There are some instances of schools running in ancient monuments. A list is enclosed in Statement (*See* below)

(e) There is no such proposal at present.